(c) whether the proposed negotiation for revision of wages of coal mine workers will result in future increase in price of coal?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The accounts for the financial year 1985-86 of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries, Singareni Collieries Company Limited and Neyveli Lignite Corporation are at various stages of finalisation.

(b) Various measuring being adopted to improve the working of the coal companies include opening of new mines, fuller utilisation of mining capacity already created, more extent use and better maintenance of equipment, stricter control of inventory and economy in the use of stores, better use of manpower by controlling absenteeism and enforcing discipline and identification of surplus workers and their re-deployment after suitable training, better availability of scare inputs like explosives, timber etc., reduction of pit-head stocks by faster movement and more systematic distribution, expeditious and timely completion of new projects and improvement in the law and order situation and control over mafia activities in Bihar-Bengal coalfields.

(c) The pit-head prices of coal were revised with effect from 9-1-1986. The price of coal is fixed on the basis of the cost of production which includes cost of inputs such as labour, stores, machinery, explosives etc., and as such it is not possible to assess, at this stage, the impact of proposed negotiation for revision of wages on the cost of production.

Training of switch board attendant etc. in DESU

1177. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking (DESU) impart training for jobs of Switch Board attendant, electricians etc. and gives stipends to these trainees for three years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the number of students who have completed training during the last three years and total amount spent for them;

(d) whether on completion they are automatically absorbed or are given preference by DESU over others while filling vacancies in respective jobs; and

(e)if not, what steps if any are proposed to be taken to see that they are absorbed in DESU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Training in the trade of Switch Board Attendant and Electrician is imparted by DESU under the Apprentices Act, 1961. The rate of stipend paid to the apprentices during the first, second and third year of thier training is Rs. 230, Rs. 260, and Rs. 300/- per month respectively.

(c) Total tradewise number of persons who completed the training during the last three years is as follows:—

Trade	No. of apprentices
Switch Board Attendants	70
Electricians	36

The total amount of stipend given to these apprentices is approximately Rs. 10,42,800/-.

(d) and (e) The recruitment and promotion rules for different posts in the undertaking do not provide for absorption of apprentices trained under Apprentices Act, 1961. The Act also does not cast any statutory responsibility upon an establishment to absorb the apprentices. However, the apprentices can apply as and when vacancies are advertised by DESU.